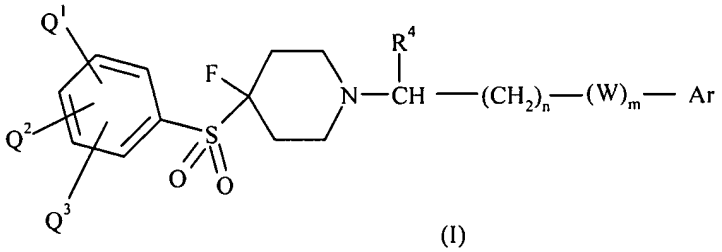
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-26 and insert therefore Claims 27- 31 as follow.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (New) A compound of the formula I:



(I)

wherein:

Ar is benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each of which bears substituent groups R^1, R^2 and R^3;

R^1 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkenyloxy, C_{2-6} alkynyloxy, or C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms or C_{1-4} alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R^3 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

Q^1 is hydrogen; fluorine; chlorine; bromine; C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; C_{2-6} alkenyl; C_{2-6} alkynyl; C_{1-6} alkoxy; C_{2-6} alkenyloxy; C_{2-6} alkynyloxy; C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms; nitrile; COQ^4 or CO_2Q^4 where Q^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; NQ^5Q^6, $CONQ^5Q^6$ or $SO_2NQ^5Q^6$ where Q^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl and Q^6 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl or Q^5 and Q^6 are joined to form either a 4-7 membered heterocyclic ring which may also contain one oxygen or one further nitrogen ring atom, which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted by up to 3 fluorine atoms or by CF_3, methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; hydroxyl; nitro; SOQ^7 or SO_2Q^7 where Q^7 is C_{1-4} alkyl;

NQ^8COQ^9, $NQ^8CO_2Q^9$ or $NQ^8SO_2Q^9$ where Q^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl and Q^9 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl or is joined to Q^8 to form a 5-7 membered ring; a heteroaromatic ring of 5 ring atoms 1, 2, 3 or 4 of which may be nitrogen atoms or 1 or 2 of which are nitrogen atoms and 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom or 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom, which heteroaromatic ring optionally being substituted by methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; or a heteroaromatic ring of 6 ring atoms containing 1 or 2 nitrogen ring atoms or a phenyl group either of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 fluorine or chlorine atoms or C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or trifluoromethyl groups;

Q^2 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, nitrile, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms, or C_{1-4} alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

Q^3 is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

or Q^2 and Q^3 are joined to form the residue of a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic ring;

R^4 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl,

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

W is $-CH_2-$, -CHF-, -CH(OH)- or -CO-;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (New) The compound of Claim 27 wherein Ar is benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each bearing substituent groups R^1, R^2 and R^3, m is 0 and n is 0.

29. (New) The compound of Claim 27 wherein Q^1 is selected from the group consisting of: H, F, Cl, Br, CN, carboxamide, 5-membered heteroaryl and NQ^5Q^6, where Q^5 and Q^6 complete a heterocyclic ring;

Q^2 is H, F or Cl;

Q^3 is H or F;

R^1 is H, F, methyl or CF_3;

R^2 is H, F, methyl or CF_3; and

R^3 is H.

30. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of: 4-({4-Fluoro-1-[(6-fluoro-1,2-benzisothiazol-3-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzonitrile; 6-Fluoro-3-({4-fluoro-4-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]piperidin-1-yl}methyl)-1,2-benzisothiazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 27 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.